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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT THURSDAY October 31, 1940.

Subject: "MAKING OVER THE LIGHTING SYSTEM." Information from the Bureaus of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering and Home Economics. Publication available, Farmers' Bulletin 1838-F, Electric Light for the Farmstead.

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The latest word in the field of lighting, according to illuminating engineers and lighting specialists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is to have *better* light. So a good many people are wondering what they can do to improve the lighting systems they now have.

Better light in many cases means *more* light. For some it means better *quality* light. *General illumination* for ordinary household activities and *local* lighting for close seeing tasks. Higher wattage bulbs provide *more* light, while properly shaded bulbs and diffusing bowls *reduce glare*, shadows, and sharp contrasts. Well designed portable lamps give *local* lighting for close seeing,-- for reading, studying, writing, and sewing.

If you want to have good lighting in the living-room, provide portable lamps so that everyone who is doing close seeing work will be able to sit near a suitable light. This doesn't mean that you have to buy a lamp for every person or chair in the room. If you arrange the chairs well, and place the lamp where it will throw a wide enough circle of light, one lamp can often serve two or even three people who are reading or sewing.

To throw a wide enough circle of light your lamp must be high enough and have a wide enough shade preferably with sloping sides, to spread the light over the working area.

People who have used electricity for several years have grown accustomed to the amount of light provided by the kind of fixtures they installed originally. Fixtures were often designed to replace obsolete gas chandeliers, or even to resemble

kerosene lamps or candles. Remember the days when a bureau mirror was lighted by a bulb hanging down on a cord from the ceiling? When a long string operated a cluster of small ceiling lights? When the writing desk was equipped with a "student lamp" that threw a spot of intense glare into the gloom surrounding the desk? You can find lighting like this in homes today; and if you discover some of these lighting faults in your home you may be interested in the possibility of changing them.

Lighting authorities now say that if we are to get the amount of light necessary for different seeing jobs we must use higher wattage bulbs than we have been accustomed to. Large bulbs are much cheaper than they used to be. You can buy a 100-watt bulb for as little as 15 cents. Then there are bulbs with two filaments giving different intensities. You can get these bulbs in 50-100-150 watt size, or 100-200-300 watt size for use in reading lamps.

Three intensity bulbs make one lamp much more flexible. Use the lowest wattage for general illumination or to light tasks which do not require much light. Use the higher wattages for close seeing jobs.

Of course you can buy new bulbs of higher wattage for all your lights and lamps. But that doesn't completely solve the problem of good lighting. The light from these larger bulbs must be diffused and shaded to protect the persons using the light from glare.

First, as to ceiling lights. In the kitchen, bath-room, laundry and in halls or on porches, you can enclose the ceiling bulb in a bowl of translucent glass or plastic, or cover it with a shade that clips on. For that cluster of ceiling lights in the living-room or dining-room you can use small individual shades, or cover the whole cluster with an artistic flattened bowl of glass or parchment, or put in a new fixture that will diffuse the light throughout the room.

Then for your portable lamps,-the tall floor lamp or table lamps, or the bridge lamp, if you have one. The floor lamp will be much improved if you can get an adapter socket and diffusing bowl for it, and use a 3-way bulb. If you use a

3-intensity light the adapter socket must be of a special type, as 3-intensity bulbs can not be used in ordinary light sockets. You can also fit the table lamps with adapter units and diffusing bowls if they have good shape and height. Otherwise, it may be better in the long run to buy one or two inexpensive new lamps of an approved type.

On that down-turning bridge lamp, you can reduce glare from the end of the bulb by changing to a silver-bowl bulb, or you can buy adapters especially designed for bridge lamps. You can convert a bridge lamp into a semi-indirect lamp by turning the socket upward and adding a diffusion bowl and shade to fit it.

Probably several of the lamps need new shades. Lighting specialists strongly recommend white-lined shades for all lamps. Maybe instead of buying new shades you can line the ones you have with white, or paint them white inside.

Improving your lamps may not fulfill all your lighting needs. You may need more lamps, and for these, extra convenience outlets. Ask your electrician about replacing your single convenience outlets with double or triple ones, where you can plug in two or more lights or appliances at the same time. In some cases you could have an extra convenience outlet put in beside an existing wall switch with very little trouble or expense.

And see if you can have switches near the doorways that operate at least one light in every room. Then no one will have to cross a room in the dark for a pull chain to turn on the light.

Speaking of pull chains, if you can't put in a switch just now, you can fasten a cord to the chain from the central ceiling fixture and carry it over to the wall, through screweyes. Drop it down beside the door.

That suggestion, and many others, you'll find in the new free bulletin on lighting, recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The full title is "Electric Light for the Farmstead", and the number 1838-F. Better send for a copy before you attempt many changes.